GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4145
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2002
OIL DISCOVERY BY ONGC/ONGC VIDESH IN TAMIL NADU
P.D. ELANGOVAN

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC and ONGC Videsh have made any significant discovery in Tamil Nadu /Coastal Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reserves of Oil and Gas in these discoveries;

(c) the expenditure incurred for carrying out the trial trenches/diggings or explorations in sea;

(d) the initiatives taken by the Government for the exploitation of these oil and gas reserves;

(e) whether these will be offered to private sector companies for exploitation and further exploration; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and the income expected to be generated from these adventures?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) & (b): During the last 3 years (1999-2000 to 2001-02) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has made two hydrocarbon finds (natural gas) in the Tamil Nadu on shore area. There have been no discoveries in Coastal Tamil Nadu in the said period.

As a result of ONGC`s exploratory efforts in the Tamil Nadu onshore area, as on 1.4.2002 they have established a reserve of 96.77 million metric tonne (MMT) of oil and oil equivalent of gas (O+OEG).

ONGC-Videsh Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of ONGC, is engaged in hydrocarbon exploration and production activities overseas.

(c): During the last three years (1999-2000 to 2001-2002) ONGC had incurred an expenditure of about Rs. 32.76 crore on exploratory activities in the Tamil Nadu Offshore area.

(d) & (e): ONGC being a Navratna company, is empowered to take its own decisions in exploration and production matters. Accordingly, in all the two finds which fall within the ONGC-operated Petroleum Exploration Licence (PEL)/Mining Lease(ML) areas they are carrying out exploration and development activities..

(f): Does not arise in view of (d) & (e) above.